

Chew Toys, Bones, Rawhides **and Your Dog's Teeth**

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Dogs love to chew. For many dogs it's their favorite past time. There are countless products on the market aimed to fill dogs' chewing needs. They range from natural products like bones, rawhides and antlers to man-made toys such as rubber balls and nylon bones. Some of them proudly proclaim that they are indestructible. Almost all of them claim to be good for dogs' dental health. But the truth is this:

Your dog's TOYS may be indestructible, but your dog's TEETH are not!

Many dog chews are too hard, and will chip and eventually fracture teeth, especially the large, important teeth used for chewing. These fractures are raw and sensitive, and require the tooth to be addressed via root canal or extraction, which is complex and expensive. If not addressed quickly fractured teeth can turn into very painful abscesses.

Chew toy DOs and DON'Ts:

Our pet's teeth are no different than our own, so ask yourself if YOU would want to chew on it. A good rule to follow is if you can't easily bend and/or compress a chew toy/bone, or press your finger nail into it - then it is too hard.

If the chew is harder than your dog's teeth, eventually the teeth will lose.

Chews to AVOID:

- ✗ ALL bones, knuckles, bully sticks, antlers and hooves.
- ✗ Knotted rawhides, large rawhide sticks, rawhide chips
- ✗ Nylon bones
- ✗ Rubber toys that you cannot bend and/or compress or that do not have a hollow center
- ✗ Sticks and rocks

Chews that are OK:

- Rubber toys, such as [Kong Classic](#), [Goodie-Bone](#) and [Stuff-a-Ball](#), that can be compressed and have a hollow center
- Special plasticized toys, such as [Zogoflex brand toys](#)

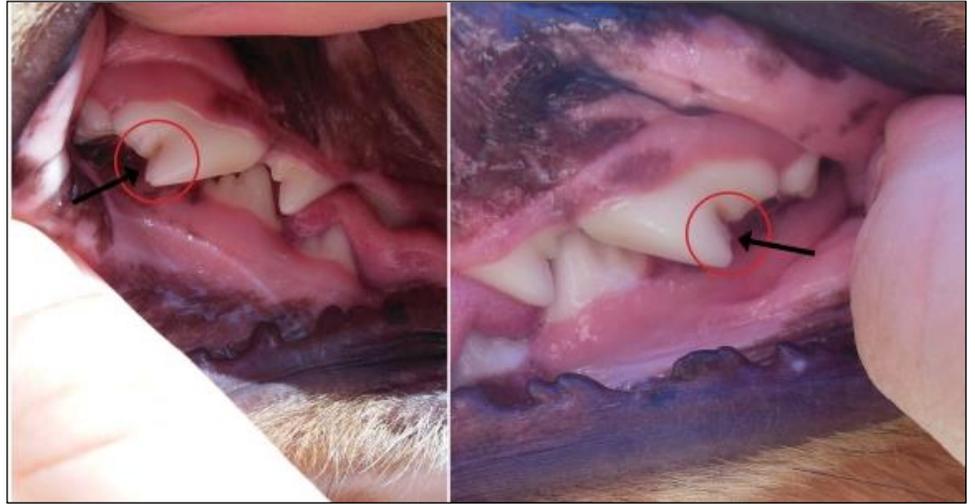
A special note for tennis ball addicts: The fuzzy covering on the tennis ball is abrasive and long term chewing can cause severe wear on the teeth. Try a ball of similar size without a textured coating, such as some "[Chuckit](#)" brand balls or Planet Dog's "[Orbee-tuff ball](#)".

"[Tuff Balls](#)" by PetSport have extra-thick natural rubber walls which provide extra durability and no added chemicals for bounce as are done with "human" tennis balls. The nonabrasive felt won't wear down a dog's teeth

Always supervise your pets when they are given a chew toy. All toys run the risk of a piece breaking off and being ingested.

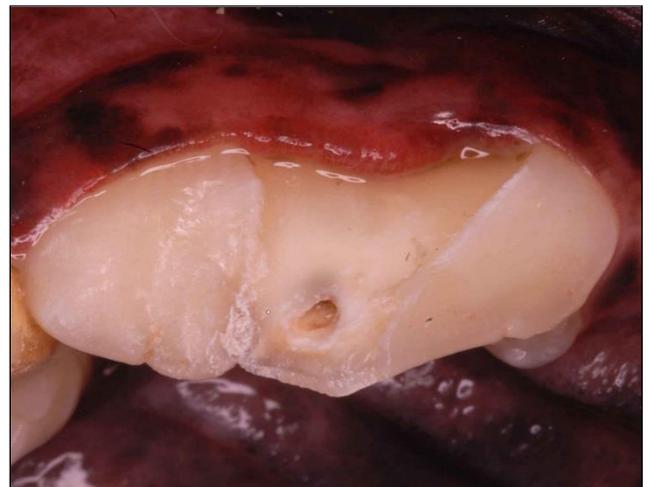
Stages of a fracture:

First the tooth will chip. The point will become dull and it is worn away.



After the integrity of the tooth is compromised by chipping, the tooth will fracture.

The fracture exposes the pulp and root of the tooth, and is very painful.



The ultimate goal is to keep your dog's teeth healthy and intact!

Pro-Tip:

Use canned dog food & pieces of your pets kibble to fill a classic Kong toy. Put it in the freezer for a few hours or until frozen & now you have something to keep them busy for hours!

[Chewy.com](https://www.chewy.com) is a great place to find all of these toys!

Other fun toys that were mentioned above:

- [West Paw Zogoflex Jive Tough Ball Dog Toy](#)



- [West Paw Zogoflex Hurley Tough Dog Chew Toy](#)



- [West Paw Zogoflex Bumi Dog Toy](#)



- [KONG Extreme Goodie Bone Dog Toy](#)



- [KONG Extreme Dog Toy](#)



- [KONG Tires Dog Toy](#)



- [Planet Dog Orbee-Tuff Diamond Plate Ball Tough Dog Chew Toy, Chrome](#)